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" (b) The Director of Agriculture issued instructions to the District Agricultural officers to the effect that the countersignature of the janmis in the application for loans should be insisted on as a condition precedent to the grant of takkavi loans in Malabar. The Government have examined the question and have since ordered that loans for purchase of seeds and manures should be sanctioned to the tenants in the Malabar district on the personal security of the tenant borrower or on the joint personal security of two or more such tenants on production of solvency certificates from the village officers."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Sir, have the Government received a report from the Collector of Malabar in his L. Dis. No. 786/54, dated 31st August 1954, regarding the grant of loans to agriculturists in Malnad area, which forms one-third of the area in Malabar, on the ground that these agriculturists do not possess any land supported by documentary evidence but that the leases are only oral and if so, what steps have been taken by the Government to see that these peasants are also benefited by the scheme? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :— " Evidently, the hon. Member has not fully followed my answer. Now loans are given on personal security also."

Allotment of peons to a Minister.

* 101 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many peons are allotted to a Minister; and

(*b*) how many of them are working at the office and how many in their houses?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) Five peons (including one Chobdar).

" (*b*) This is a matter left to the convenience of each Minister but usually two peons (including the Chobdar) are posted to work in office and three in the residence. The residential peons will keep turn among themselves so that one of them will always be on duty at the residence."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" May I know, Sir, whether this Government have received any circular from the Prime Minister of India to reduce the number of peons attached to the Ministers? " (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I am not aware of any such circular."